

R E M A R K S

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Examiner's continued allowance of claim 10 is respectfully acknowledged.

THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the electronic tag reader "reads, using a wireless transmission, electronic tag information from an electronic tag, which is attached to the article, when the image capture device captures the image data of the article in response to the shutter operation." Claim 11 has been amended along similar lines to recite "reading electronic tag information from an electronic tag, which is attached to the article, by the electronic tag reader using a wireless transmission, when the image capture device captures the image data of the article in response to the operation of the shutter button." See, for example, page 6, line 25 to page 7, line 20 with respect to the amendments to claims 1 and 7.

No new matter has been added, and it is respectfully requested that the amendments to the claims be approved and entered.

THE PRIOR ART REJECTION

Claims 1, 3, and 11 were rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious in view of the combination of US 2005/0103840 ("Boles"), USP 7,333,001 ("Lane et al") and US 2003/0095032 ("Hoshino et al"). This rejection, however, is respectfully traversed with respect to the claims as amended hereinabove.

According to the present invention as recited in amended independent claim 1, a digital camera comprises (i) an image capture device which captures image data of an article in response to a shutter operation, and (ii) an electronic tag reader which reads, using a wireless transmission, electronic tag information from an electronic tag, which is attached to the article, when the image capture device captures the image data of the article in response to the shutter operation.

Thus, according to the present invention as recited in amended independent claim 1 the camera not only captures image data of an article, but also reads electronic tag information from an electronic tag which is attached to the article, in response to the shutter operation.

In addition, according claim 1, a determining device determines whether or not writing of the image data of the article captured by the image capture device into the electronic tag is permitted based on the electronic tag information read by the electronic tag reader, and a tag writer writes the image data

of the article captured by the image capture device into the electronic tag when the determining device determines that the writing of the image data is permitted.

Thus, according to claim 1 the read electronic tag information is written into the electronic tag if the writing of the image data is permitted.

Therefore, with the structure of the present invention as recited in claim 1, the user is only required to perform a shutter operation in order to store the image of the article and the electronic tag information to the electronic tag. As a result, the image of the article is easily associated with the electronic tag information.

Boles discloses obtaining images of characteristic regions of a valuable V (such as a gemstone or larger object such as a painting), and outputting the images in digitized form to an inductive writer 6 which is arranged to store the images in a memory 8 of a miniature RFID tag 7. See paragraphs [0035], [0034], and [0040]-[0042]. According to this technique, the valuable V can subsequently be authenticated by electronically scanning for the digitized image information stored in the RFID tag 7, retrieving and decrypting this information using the computer controlled reader/writer 6 (FIG. 1) and comparing the digitized images with freshly acquired images of the same characteristic regions (paragraphs [0040] and [0042]).

It is respectfully submitted, however, that Boles does not disclose or suggest an electronic tag reader which reads, using a wireless transmission, electronic tag information from an electronic tag, which is attached to the article, when the image capture device captures the image data of the article in response to the shutter operation. That is, Boles does not disclose or suggest both capturing image data of an article and also reading electronic tag information from an electronic tag which is attached to the article, in response to the shutter operation.

The Examiner has cited Lane et al as disclosing a "writing device which determines whether or not writing information is permitted based on the electronic tag information read by the electronic tag reader, and which writes information into the electronic tag when it is determined that the writing of the image is permitted" (page 4, lines 1-4 of the Office Action).

It is respectfully submitted, however, that the portion of Lane et al quoted by the Examiner merely discloses that in an RFID circuit tag 4, "[t]he controller 4A may . . . access the security circuit 4F to authenticate the identity of the reader 10 and to determine if the reader 10 is authorized to request information from, or write information into, or otherwise direct the operation of the RFID tag 2" (column 15, lines 40-44). It is respectfully submitted that Lane et al thus does not, in fact, disclose a "writing device which determines whether or not

writing information is permitted based on the electronic tag information read by the electronic tag reader, and which writes information into the electronic tag when it is determined that the writing of the image is permitted" (page 4, lines 1-4 of the Office Action) as asserted by the Examiner.

In addition, it is respectfully submitted that Lane et al does not at all disclose or suggest an electronic tag reader which reads, using a wireless transmission, electronic tag information from an electronic tag, which is attached to the article, when the image capture device captures the image data of the article in response to the shutter operation, as recited in amended independent claim 1. Indeed, it is respectfully submitted that Lane et al does not disclose an image capture device which captures image data of an article in response to a shutter operation.

Finally, Hoshino et al has been cited with respect to the "wherein" clause of claim 1. Fig. 3 of Hoshino et al discloses a cellular phone 1 including a video camera 18 and an ID reading portion 19. It is respectfully submitted, however, that Hoshino et al does not disclose or suggest that an image capture device, a display device, an electronic tag reader, a determining device, and a tag writer are incorporated in a camera housing of a digital camera.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that even if the Boles, Lane et al and Hoshino et al were combinable in the manner suggested by the Examiner, amended independent claim 1 still would not be achieved or rendered obvious.

In addition, it is respectfully submitted that, for reasons similar to those explained above, Boles, Lane et al and Hoshino et al also do not disclose or suggest method of the present invention as recited in amended independent claim 11.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that amended independent claims 1 and 11, and all of the claims respectively depending therefrom, clearly patentably distinguish over Boles, Lane et al and Hoshino et al under 35 USC 103.

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Entry of this Amendment, allowance of the claims and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,

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